



Abstract of an Accident

93-7

ACCIDENT TYPE: Fall from Ladder
INJURY: Fracture/Dislocation of Elbow
TYPE OF WORK: Roof Leak Repair
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Safety Shoes, Back Support, Safety Glasses and Gloves

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

Injured and co-worker "walked" an extension ladder (27') alongside the building. Co-worker was on ground while injured walked on the building's eave. After lifting the ladder over an interfering tree and placing it in desired location, co-worker wedged bottom of ladder against curb to prevent it from slipping. Injured started to climb up extended portion carrying a 1 gallon container of tar to patch the roof. The ladder extension immediately began retracting. Injured fell, hit the building eave then fell to the sidewalk, about 8 1/2 ft down. He landed on his arm, fracturing and dislocating his left elbow, and suffering other minor abrasions to his hand and arm.

DIRECT CAUSE:

Failure to properly secure extension ladder. The tie-off rope was left hanging instead of secured to prevent the extended portion of the ladder from slipping.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSE:

Improper movement of ladder and failure to inspect ladder after movement prior to use. Because of the shape of the building (quonset hut), use of an extension ladder was not the best choice of equipment. A JLG man-lift (cherry picker) truck would have provided much safer access to the roof.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- NEVER move a ladder while it is extended.
- ALWAYS ensure the extension ladder is properly secured in a locked position and the extension rope tied as required
- ALWAYS INSPECT the ladder prior to use, especially after moving it or changing its position.

Your **SAFETY** contact is...